
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

3/24/09

The Board of Selectmen met in the Town Hall, Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt, and CAFO Kerry Speidel present, Thomas Mason, and Dave Matthews absent. Meeting opened at 7:33 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair announced congratulations to Emily Cattalini, placed 2nd place in the regional spelling bee.
Board of Selectmen will have a special meeting for next Wednesday, April 1st at 6:00 PM, site to be determined.

APPOINTMENTS

1. **7:30 P.M. Continuation Sunnyhill Road Pole Location – withdrawn by applicant** – Verizon has officially withdrawn the plan and will be resubmitting a plan. As this hearing is now closed the abutters will be notified of when a pole location application request is submitted.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. CAFO Updates

2. **Minutes** – Board of Selectmen 3/3/09, 3/10/09 & 3/17/09 reviewed and signed.

Warrants - #50 09, 3/19/09 - \$140,924.23 and #51 09, 3/24/09 - \$371,596.51 reviewed and signed.

Contracts - none

3. Action File Issues –

- Paula noted the improvements that have to be done on the Lake Shirley Dam, aware that title work is being done. Concern is that the improvements are able to move forward as she has had conversations with residents of Lake Shirley. Per CAFO, have not had the opportunity as obviously we've taken on quite a bit of work due to the impact of the ice storm and that work has to be completed.
- Steve questioned the status of street lights still not working, and per CAFO have spoken with the Police Chief and he has the third shift working on reporting the lights that are out. Also questioned status of Brown Ave. Per CAFO, no updates; seems to be a difference of opinion as to what has been accepted as a public street and we have to do some more work on this. It seems to be a long standing issue that we need to resolve off-season, whether or not it is an accepted street seems to be a subject of debate. Steve noted that it's a unique street as it's a portion that wasn't accepted, similar to a cul-de-sac. Per Paula a portion of the road is a public way and would question why the town would back up. Her understanding is that it meets all of the requirements of being an accepted way. As Steve noted, this road has been historically plowed and given the fact that a portion of this is accepted, it would make sense to have the whole street plowed. Per CAFO, have to make a determination as to how we're going to handle private roads as if you make an exception then this has to be applicable to all private roads. Per CAFO, if we have a snow storm through the rest of the season we will take care of it and make a decision in the summer.

4. **Town Meeting (5/2/09) Articles** – CAFO noted, no petition articles were received. Bylaw related articles, need to hear from entity that is putting on the warrant. The two major ones appear to be the sewer assessment and sewer bylaw.

CAFO anticipates having the collective bargaining agreements by town meeting. Move Article U to make as Article D in the special Board of Selectmen scheduled meeting for Wednesday, April 1st @ 6:00 PM to review sequence and make recommendations to the articles.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates –

- Paula attended the Planning Board Committee meeting, Aro estates did submit plans and has been noted that there are a number of concerns as doesn't meet our zoning requirements.

- Placeholder on warrant for Planning Board 43D, large parcel in Fitchburg, which encompasses some property in Lunenburg in the Summer Street area that requires the site zoning be changed.
- Planning Board meeting next Tuesday to discuss the Articles, no article for the Master Plan. MJTC representative noted that there is funding available through CDBG and funding opportunities would need to be processed through the CAFO.
- Workshop has been scheduled for the land use boards with Wright Pierce and a draft proposal, will also be going over concerns forwarded by the land use boards at the workshop and the public hearing.

2. COPS Grants – No action.

3. SAFER Grant – No action

4. Old Primary School – Chair noted that the board did have an earlier workshop with Jon Juhl, those talks continue and we voiced some of our concerns. Research we still need to do and potentially ready to take a vote on this, April 7th.

5. West Street Property – disposition of land – Kerry presented the plan of land and noted that Town Meeting voted in 2002 to designate the parcel to be used for municipal purposes and to allow the Board of Selectmen to sell any portion thereof to abutting property owners. Noted the parcels that have been identified to provide property owners to double their lot sizes and this would enable some properties the opportunity to install septic system. Noted that the Board of Health has also been following this through. Next step would be for the town to file an ANR plan, and that this would have to be put out to bid. Any costs associated with preparing the plan, the ANR Plan and recording would be build into the minimum bid costs for those properties.

Steve noted that it squares up the town's property and that this would be beneficial to abutting property owners.

Survey services are not included in the estimated costs. If any costs are needed above this, Steve Marsden is excluding those costs that he is proposing.

David Prokowiew of 733 West Street noted that he is interested in the proposal and the process.

Kerry informed about the ANR which is a plan that the town has to submit to the Planning Board to sign off and present to the Registry of Deeds, estimates 45 days before we can get through the process.

Paula move that the Board of Selectmen put the project to sell the parcels of the West Street parcel out to bid, Steve seconded, voted.

6. Budgets – CAFO informed the board that the schools received \$328,911. from the fiscal stabilization fund which is part of the stimulus package. Received notice that they will be receiving an additional \$218,000 from the idea program for special education and 250,000 from Title 1, that provides enhanced math and reading programs for school age school children. Were 148 school districts in Massachusetts that received money from these stimulus funds as our net school spending was below the foundation budget. Has met with the School Superintendent to discuss how these funds can be used to help us through our situation in this fiscal year and 2010. A good portion of these funds will be used to help the town as a whole, but some of these funds are targeted for specific expenses. Could be help for our capital plan for 2010, we do have to be cautious that these funds will probably not be available for more than 2 years. Monty Tech has also been notified that they will be awarded \$651,891, hoping this may have some financial impact on our assessment for 2010 which would be a help to our operating budget. Will have line item budget available for Friday at the end of the day, however, hoping to have available for the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday. Expect to have the House Budget available by the end of April, which is concerning because there are issues with regards to the increase in meals tax and whether it's going to be cut out completely. Confident that we will be able to cover some of FY09 deficits as we know it now if we are able to use \$100,000 that may be available from the school.

Chair noted that when School Superintendent, Culkeen came before the Finance Committee

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – REAPPOINTMENTS - RESIGNATIONS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Williams, Chief Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen